

REMARKS

Claims 15-21 remain in this application. Claims 15, 18 and 21 were amended in this response. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments

Claim 21 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 21 was also objected to for being dependent upon a canceled base claim. In light of the present amendment, applicants submit the claim now properly depends from claim 20, and that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 15-16, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Bayart et al.* (US Patent 5,815,299). Applicants note that, while the Office Action listed claims 15-21 in this rejection, there were no accompanying remarks regarding claim 21 being anticipated by *Bayart*, and in light of the allowable matter identified in claim 21, Applicants presume this listing was a typographical error. Similarly, claim 17 was not addressed in the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection, and as such, it is presumed that this claim was not anticipated by *Bayart*.

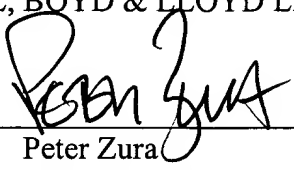
Claims 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bayart et al.* (US Patent 5,815,299), in view of *Taga et al.* (US Patent 5,790,289). Applicants traverse these rejections. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 15 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 21, indicated in the Office Action dated June 10, 2005. In light of the amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claims 15 and 18 of the present application, as well as claims 16-17 and 19-21 which respectfully depend therefrom, are patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the office is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No.: 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket Number (0112740-643) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Zura", is written over a horizontal line.

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